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BOOK REVIEWS.

EDITED BY W. H. BUSSEY, University of Minnesota.

Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences. By GALILEO GALILEI. Translated from the Italian and Latin into English by HENRY CREW and ALFONSO DE SALVIO with an introduction by ANTONIO FAVARO. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1914. xxi+300 pages. $2.00.

Into these dialogues, Galileo gathered, during his last years, practically all of his work that is of value to the physicist or the engineer. The translation into English, at this time, is most desirable as the few copies of the two former translations, by Thomas Salusbury in 1665 and Thomas Weston in 1730, are quite inaccessible and many passages are either ambiguous or unintelligible to the modern reader.

The translation strictly follows the text of the National Edition of the Works of Galileo recently completed by Antonio Favaro. The text is essentially the same as that of the original Elzevir edition of 1638. All comments and annotations have been omitted with the exception of a few footnotes properly labeled (Trans.) in order to preserve the original as nearly as possible, and the translation is as literal as is consistent with clearness and modernity. Where there is any deviation from this rule and in case of some technical terms the original Italian or Latin phrase is added enclosed in brackets. The original illustrations are reproduced.

The presentation of the science in the form of dialogues is exceedingly striking and effective. The dialogues continue during four successive days. In the first day the three men discuss resistance which solid bodies offer to fracture, friction, cohesion, the finite and the infinite, laws of falling bodies, terminal velocity, the density of air, isochronous vibrations of the pendulum, resonance, etc. During the second day the same men discuss levers, beams, cohesion, resistance to fracture, and strength of hollow tubes.

On the third day they begin the discussion of the "second new science," treating of motion. They consider the laws of uniform motion and of uniformly accelerated motion, and the time of descent of a body down an inclined plane under various conditions.

The fourth day is taken up with the consideration of the composition of a horizontal uniform motion with a vertical uniformly accelerated motion, the velocity of a projectile at any point of its path, the maximum range and various other problems concerning projectiles, the sagging of a stretched cord. The term momentum is used and impulsive forces are mentioned but not explained.

It will repay anyone, who has not already done so, to read this admirable book of historic as well as intrinsic interest.

ANTHONY ZELENY.

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